[English]

Construction of An Airstrip in Maharashtra

7181. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Maharshtra has submitted a Proposal for the construction of an airstrip in Buldana district;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Communication Facilities in Rajasthan

7182. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the districts where new post offices, telephone exchanges, teleprinter services and telegraph offices were opened in Rajasthan during the last three years with number thereof, separately;
- (b) the details of the scheme proposed to be formulated by the Government to provide these facilities during Eighth five year Plan;
- (c) the progress made with regard to the provision of telephone and postal facilities at each panchayat headquarter during the last six months:

- (d) whether the Government propose to give special priority to Rajasthan in regard to communication facilities in view of its being a backward and border area; and
 - (e) if so, the derails thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIP.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The district wise number of new post office, Telephone exchanges, Teleprinterservices and Telegraph offices opened in Rajasthan during the last three years is given in the attached Statements I, II and III.

(b) POST OFFICE No details of schemes proposed can be indictated as the 8th five Year Plan has not been finalised.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES: As per draft 8th Five Year Plan in Rajasthan the net switching capacity is likely to be increased by over 4 lakh lines and over 3 lakh new subscribers are likely to be provided with telephone connections. Detailed proposals are drawn up annually. The criterion for opening new exchanges is when the minimum registered demand exceed 10 and suitable equipment becomes available.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES: During the Eighth Five Year Plan it has been proposed to upgrade Combined Post & Telegraph Offices into independent Telegraph Offices in Eleven District Headquarters in Rajasthan namely Jaisalmer, Barmer, Chittorgarh, Dungarpur, Rajsamand, Jhalwar, Baran, Bundi, Tonk, Dholpur and Dausa, Teleprinter services will be provided in all these Telegraph Offices.

(c) During the period from 1-10-91 to 31-3-1992, the number of Gram Panchayat Villages provided with Post Office Telephone facilities is under: